

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TQ, UN

SUBJ: COM REPRESENTATIVE ATALIG REQUEST FOR SPECIAL
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL SESSION REGARDING
MILITARY USE OF TINIAN

THE PRESIDENT TRUSTTEESHIP COUNCIL
THE UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK, N.Y.

DEAR SIR:

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN, I HEREBY REQUEST A
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORTING TO THE COUNCIL CERTAIN
RECENT ACTIONS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD
HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN.

AS THE COUNCIL MAY KNOW, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, IN
ITS RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARIANA POLITICAL STATUS
COMMISSION, REQUESTED THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF TINIAN FOR A
MILITARY FACILITY. ACCORDING TO THIS PLAN, THE EXISTING
VILLAGE OF SAN JOSE WAS TO BE TAKEN OVER COMPLETELY, AND
THE POPULATION MOVED ACROSS THE ISLAND ON LAND WHICH WOULD
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BE LEASED BACK TO THE PEOPLE FROM THE MILITARY.

SINCE THE DATE OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN VISITED FREQUENTLY BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MILITARY, WHO HAVE COME TO PLAN WHAT THEY WILL DO WITH OUR ISLAND BEFORE THEY HAVE EVEN ASCERTAINED THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE REGARDING THE USE OF TINIAN AS A MILITARY BASE.

AND RECENTLY, ALMOST THREE MONTHS AFTER THE ACTION WAS TAKEN, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN ORDERED BY THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EFFECTIVELY TO HALT ALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON TINIAN. EFFECTIVE MAY 8TH, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN ORDERED NOT TO ISSUE ANY MORE PERMITS FOR HOMESTEADS ON PUBLIC LANDS, NOT TO GRANT ANY MORE PERMITS FOR HOMESTEADS ON PUBLIC LANDS, NOT TO GRANT ANY ANY MORE APPLICATIONS FOR LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS OR LEASE OF PRIVATE LANDS TO NONCITIZENS, NOT TO CONSIDER ANY MORE APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS PERMITS BY NONCITIZENS, AND TO CANCEL ANY EXISTING BUSINESS PERMITS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED; THE LATTER HAS RESULTED IN CANCELLATION OF PLANS FOR A FIFTY-ROOM HOTEL, A PALM OIL PROCESSING PLANT, AND A CEMENT PLANT FOR TINIAN, PROJECTS WHICH WOULD HAVE ASSURED JOBS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE AND WHICH WOULD HAVE GUARANTEED OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH DESERVES THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL. OUR FUTURE CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO BE HELD IN LIMBO AT THE WHIM OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY WHILE IT DECIDES WHAT IS TO BECOME OF US. WE, THEREFORE, URGE YOUR CONSIDERATION OF OUR REQUEST FOR A CONVENING OF THE COUNCIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF THIS REQUEST IS GRANTED, OUR DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF THE HON. ANTONIO S. NOJA, MAYOR; HARRY CRUZ, SPEAKER OF THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL; LEONARDO DIAZ, VICE-SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL; MYSELF; AND AN ATTORNEY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST. I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE COUNCIL'S REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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VERY TRULY YOURS,

FELIPE Q. ATALIG
REPRESENTATIVE,
MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT
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